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RR RUEAIIB
ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
TSTU367
RR RUEHC
DE RUEHAD #1273 1621220
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
R 111156Z JUN 79
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8265
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1816
RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1811
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1850
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 1543
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 569
RUQMTI/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 377
BT

SR
AB

~~SECRET~~ BAGHDAD 1273

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/11/85 (MACK, DAVID L.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, XF, IZ
SUBJECT: (S) WHEREABOUTS OF ABU NIDAL AND PLO-IRAQI RELATIONS

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH JORDANIAN CHARGE AND MILITARY ATTACHE ON JUNE 10, I ASKED WHETHER THEY COULD CONFIRM RUMOUR THAT REJECTIONIST PALESTINIAN TERRORIST (SABRI AL-BANNA) (AKA ABU NIDAL) HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM IRAQ. JORDANIANS, WHO IN THE PAST HAV WATCHED SUCH MATTERS CLOSELY, SAID THEY BELIEVED HE HAD LEFT IRAQ AND WAS NO LONGER WELCOME HERE. THEY SAID THEY WERE UNAWARE OF PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF ABU NIDAL, BUT BY PROCESS OF ELIMINATION THE THREE OF US CONCLUDED THAT LIBYA MIGHT BE THE BEST PROSPECT.

3. SALA KHALAF (AKA ABU IYAD) ARRIVED IN BAGHDAD JUNE 10 FOR MEETINGS WITH BAATH PARTY OFFICIALS. NAIM HADDAD, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL

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COMMAND OFFICE FOR PALESTINIAN AND ARMED STRUGGLE,
HEADED THE IRAQI SIDE IN TALKS WHICH LOCAL OBSERVERS
BELIEVE MAY SET THE STAGE FOR FORMALIZING IMPROVED
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE PLO. CONTINUED
ABSENCE FROM BAGHDAD OF A SENIOR RESIDENT PLO OFFICIAL
IS SOMETHING OF AN ANOMALY, AND PLO MAY HAVE
DEMANDED THAT ABU NIDAL LEAVE TOWN AS A CONDITION
FOR NORMALIZING PLO-IRAQI RELATIONS.
MACK

END OF MESSAGE

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